Name _____ Date _____

Lining up columns

Put every digit in its place, then add the columns, starting with the ones.

1 Learn



Big numbers are easy to add if you line them up properly: **ones under ones, tens under tens, hundreds under hundreds** and **thousands under thousands.**

Right: lined up from the ones

	Th	H	T	O
	3	2	6	4
+			5	2

52 is 5 tens and 2 ones

Wrong: lined up from the left

	Th	H	T	O
	3	2	6	4
+	5	2		

this turns 52 into 5,200

Th	H	T	O
3	2	6	4
+ 1	5	2	3
4	7	8	7

Worked example: 3,264 + 1,523

1. Write the numbers in columns, lined up from the **ones**.
2. Ones: 4 + 3 = **7**. 3. Tens: 6 + 2 = **8**.
4. Hundreds: 2 + 5 = **7**. 5. Thousands: 3 + 1 = **4**.

So 3,264 + 1,523 = **4,787**.

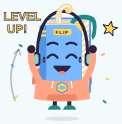
Flip's tip: if one number is shorter, put its **ones** under the other ones first. Always start adding on the **right**.

Warm up: 4,382 = ____ thousands ____ hundreds ____ tens ____ ones

Grown-ups: ask your child to say what each digit is worth before adding: "the 2 in 3,264 is worth 200". Point at the empty columns when one number is shorter: there is nothing to add there, so the top digit comes straight down.

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Paper digit cards

You need: a sheet of paper torn into 8 small pieces, a pencil, and this page.

1. Write one digit from 1 to 4 on each piece of paper, so you have two of each. Mix them up face down.
2. The grown-up turns over 4 cards to make a 4-digit number. The child turns over 3 cards to make a 3-digit number.
3. The child lays the cards on the place-value mat below, lined up from the **ones**. Check together: is every digit in the right column?
4. Add the columns, ones first, and write the calculation in the table. Mix the cards and play again.

Th	H	T	O

Go	Our calculation	Total
1		
2		
3		

Grown-ups: with digits 1 to 4, no column can make 10, so there is no exchanging yet. If your child puts the 3-digit number under the thousands, ask "what is this digit worth now?"

3 Practise

A. Tick the calculation that is lined up correctly. Then cross the one that isn't.

2,415 + 63

2	4	1	5
6	3		

2	4	1	5
		6	3

5,102 + 384

5	1	0	2
	3	8	4

5	1	0	2
3	8	4	

1,256 + 7

1	2	5	6
			7

1	2	5	6
7			

Look for the **ones**: are both ones digits in the same column on the right?

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B. Add. Start with the ones column.

1

Th	H	T	O
2	3	4	1
+ 1	4	5	6

2

Th	H	T	O
5	2	0	3
+ 2	6	7	4

3

Th	H	T	O
3	0	6	2
+	4	1	5

4

Th	H	T	O
6	1	2	0
+		5	3

C. Write these in the columns, lined up from the ones, then add.

4,503 + 1,274

Th	H	T	O
+			

7,215 + 362

Th	H	T	O
+			

D. Sky Harbour: airship **Kestrel** is carrying 3,412 kg of post. The crew loads 1,305 kg of fruit. How much is it carrying now?

Answer: _____ kg

Challenge

Leo works out **3,264 + 52** and gets **8,464**. Is he right? What did he do, and what is the real answer?

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ write each digit in the right column
- ☐ line up numbers from the ones
- ☐ add 4-digit numbers column by column, starting with the ones